

**15.090 Change from Undocumented to Documented**

Vessels used for commercial purposes **must be** documented by the U.S. Coast Guard and any yacht or pleasure vessel may be documented. When an undocumented vessel changes to a documented one, the U.S. Coast Guard picks up the California Certificate of Ownership and forwards it to DMV Sacramento Headquarters with a letter showing the documented date, the CF number, and the owner's name. The department's records are then updated to show "Documented Vessel."

**15.095 Vessels Released from Documentation**

When a vessel is removed from documentation, the owner is issued a release from documentation letter by the U.S. Coast Guard. To register the vessel, the release letter must be submitted with the original registration application requirements listed in Section 15.085 and any bill(s) of sale necessary to establish a complete chain of ownership from the owner shown on the release letter. A new CF number will always be issued to the vessel.

**Replacing a Lost Release from Documentation Letter**—If the release letter is lost, the owner may request a replacement from the U.S. Coast Guard by providing the name of the vessel, the name of the last documented owner, and the document number (if known). Requests may be sent to:

National Vessel Documentation Center  
792 T J Jackson Drive  
Falling Waters, WV 25419  
Telephone: (800) 799-8362

Address  
changed

**15.100 Nonresident Vessel Registration Applications (VC §§9854 and 9873)**

California vessel registration **is required** within 120 days (30 days after the 90-day reciprocity period) of the date of entry into California if the state of principal use changes from another state to California **or** penalties are due. Use tax **is due** if the vessel is brought into California within 90 days of the date of purchase.

**NOTE:** A vessel registered in California prior to registration in the other state **is** issued a new CF number. If available, submit the old California title with the registration application. Fees are due **prior to** first operation in California.

**Title State Requirements (VC §9852)**—The requirements are:

- An Application for Vessel Registration (BOAT 101).
- Proof of ownership. Acceptable proof of ownership may be:
  - a properly endorsed nonresident title. A bill of sale is acceptable in lieu of the seller's signature on the title.
  - the original or certified copy of a conditional sales contract or security interest showing the name(s) of the buyer and lienholder, if any, that is marked "paid" and countersigned.

**15.100 Nonresident Vessel Registration Applications, continued**

- Any bills of sale needed to complete the chain of ownership.
- The original vessel registration fee.

**Lost Nonresident Title**—If the title is lost, the application **must** also include:

- A Statement of Facts (REG 256) stating:
  - the original title is lost.
  - the name of the person from whom the vessel was acquired.
  - the value of the vessel.
  - there are no liens or encumbrances against the vessel.

**NOTE:** A bond **is** required if the vessel value is \$2,000 or more. Refer to Section 30.015 for bond requirements.

- The last issued Certificate of Number (registration) **or** a letter from the state agency that last registered the vessel giving the registration information.

**Nontitle State Requirements (VC §9852)**—The requirements are:

- An Application for Vessel Registration (BOAT 101). The applicant must complete the Statement of Applicant.
- The out-of-state Certificate of Number (vessel registration card). If not in the applicant's name, a bill of sale or the Certificate of Sale (back of the BOAT 101) completed by the owner of record to the applicant is required.
- Evidence of ownership **must** be equivalent to an out-of-state title. The complete chain of ownership **is required** to establish ownership **or** correct the legal owner. The following are acceptable as proof of ownership:
  - a bill of sale **or** dealer invoice showing no lien and marked "Paid in Full."
  - the original or certified copy of a Conditional Sales Contract showing the same legal owner indicated on the application; or stamped/marked "Paid" and countersigned.
  - a nonresident title.
  - a letter which confirms surrender of the title to another state from that state. (A letter is not needed if the applicant explains surrender of the title on the Statement of Facts [REG 256] required below).
- A Statement of Facts (REG 256) from the owner stating the vessel is free of all liens other than shown on the application.

**NOTE:** A bond may be required if the applicant **cannot** furnish any of the above. A Lien Satisfied (REG 166) **is** required if a legal owner is indicated on the Conditional Sales Contract and is not shown on the BOAT 101.

- The original vessel registration fee.